TIME KEEPS SLIPPING
PART 4 OF 4
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TIME KEEPS ON SLIPPING
PART FOUR: DUPLICITY
HA HAHA HAHA HA!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE ROBOT MASTERS AREN'T OUR FRIENDS ANY-MORE, MEGA MAN.
WHAT'S GOING ON, GUYS?! WHY ARE YOU TURNING ON US NOW?!
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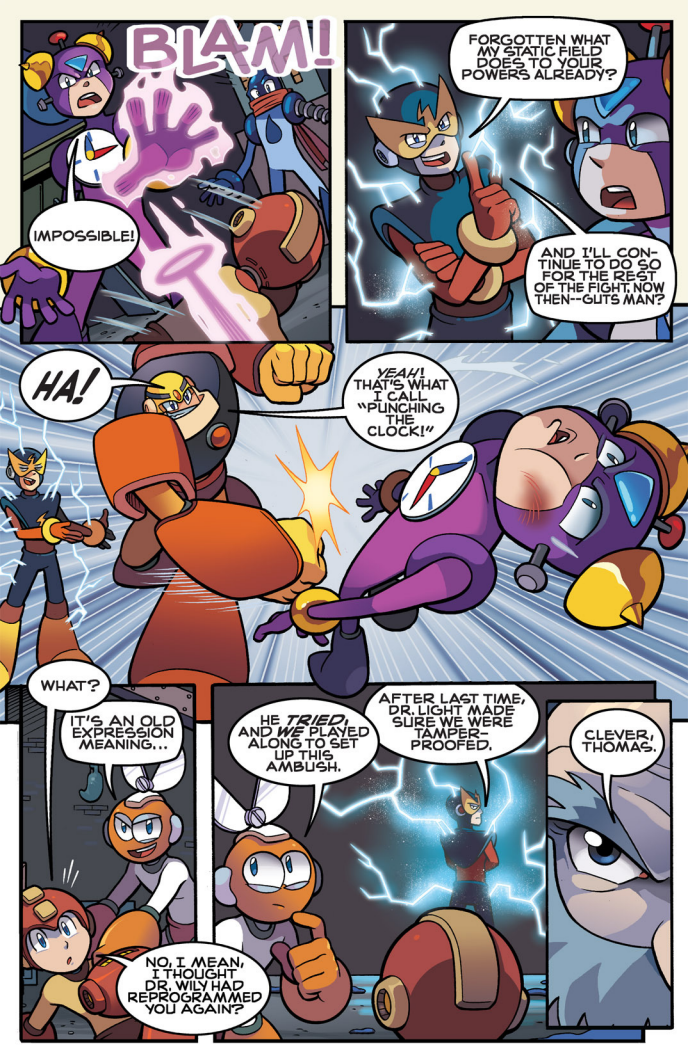
VERY ASTUTE OF YOU! AGENT KRANTZ, WAS IT?
THE ROBOT MASTERS ARE UNDER MY CONTROL ONCE AGAIN!
THANKS IN PART TO THE EFFORTS OF THESE TWO! WITH MY GENIUS, THESE LEFT-OVER ROBOT MASTERS WERE COMPLETED...AND THEY TURNED THE TIDE BACK IN MY FAVOR!
YOU FOOLS FELL FOR MY LITTLE KIDNAPPING SCHEME, JUST AS I PLANNED! TAKE A BOW, ROLL! YOU PLAYED YOUR PART PERFECTLY!
I'M SORRY! OIL MAN AMBUSHED ME!
WHY NOT SURRENDER NOW AND SAVE YOURSELF FROM THE SCRAP HEAP, ROCK?
THAT'S "MEGA MAN" TO YOU, DOCTOR! AND I'LL NEVER GIVE UP!

I HAVE A PLAN, AGENT KRANTZ.
I'M OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS.
I COPIED THE SIX ROBOT MASTERS' ABILITIES ON THE WAY HERE. WITH THAT MUCH POWER, I CAN DISTRACT THEM ALL LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO RESCUE MY SISTER.
I DON'T LIKE THOSE ODDS. DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE ALL OF THEM AT ONCE?
ACTUALLY...

...I'M PRETTY SURE I CAN'T. I'VE ALREADY SEEN WHAT THE COMBINED POWERS OF THE OTHERS CAN DO TO A ROBOT LIKE ME.*
*SEE MEGA MAN VOL. 1 GRAPHIC NOVEL.
BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN ACTUALLY FIGHT THEM. RIGHT NOW. SO, PLEASE...SAVE MY SISTER FOR ME.
TIME'S WASTING. CAN WE FINISH THEM OFF NOW?
THEY HAD THEIR CHANCE TO BEG FOR MERCY! DESTROY THEM!
YOU'RE ONE BRAVE LITTLE ROBOT.
I'LL GET ROLL TO SAFETY AND MAKE SURE DOC OR LIGHT IS CLEARED OF ANY WRONG-DOING.
PLEASE, CALL ME ROSIE. ON YOUR MARK.
THANK YOU, AGENT KRANTZ.

NOW!
PRETTY SLICK TRICK...
...BUT AIN'T NOBODY SLICK AS ME, BABY.
AUGH!

WE'LL SEE HOW CLICK YOU ARE...
...WHEN I BURN OFF ALL YOUR --!
WHEW! NICE SAVE! WE OUGHT TO CALL YOU DRAMATIC TIMING MAN.
HMPH. I CAN ONLY RECHARGE MY TIME STOP POWER SO FAST.
TIME'S UP, MEGA MAN.


BLAM!
IMPOSSIBLE!
FORGOTTEN WHAT MY STATIC FIELD DOES TO YOUR POWERS ALREADY?
AND I'LL CONTINUE TO DO SO FOR THE REST OF THE FIGHT. NOW THEN--GUTS MAN?
HA!
YEAH! THAT'S WHAT I CALL "PUNCHING THE CLOCK!"
WHAT?
IT'S AN OLD EXPRESSION MEANING...
NO, I MEAN, I THOUGHT DR. WILY HAD REPROGRAMMED YOU AGAIN?
HE TRIED, AND WE PLAYED ALONG TO SET UP THIS AMBUSH.
AFTER LAST TIME, DR. LIGHT MADE SURE WE WERE TAMPER-PROOFED.
CLEVER, THOMAS.

YOU LITTLE COWARD! YOU CAN'T FACE YOUR FOE WITHOUT MAKING THEM PRONE FIRST!
I'LL CRUSH Y--<!
IT'S CALLED BEING PRAGMATIC, OAF! I CAN STILL FREEZE YOU AT SHORT RANGE.
SORRY, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CUT YOU SHORT!
YOU'RE NOT FUNNY!
WORD. THIS AIN'T FUNNY AT ALL!

ROLL! I'M AGENT KRANTZ! ARE YOU HURT? OR, ER, DAMAGED?
NO, I'M--
GET AWAY FROM MY HOSTAGE!
BLAM!
LOOK OUT!
AAAAH!
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
I'VE GOT YOU!
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
BLAM!
KA-BOOM!
NO!

LET'S SEE YOU MAKE YOUR STUPID PUNS NOW!
LIKE YOU'RE ONE TO TALK. I *TOLD* YOU I'D KEEP YOU IN CHECK.
SURE!
LET'S SEE YOU SURF ON THIS!
WATCH!
AUGH!
THAT'LL BE ENOUGH OF THAT, PARTNER!

ROLL! ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE! AGENT KRANTZ SAVED ME!
WHAT HAPPENED TO USING ALL YOUR COPIED POWERS?
I DON'T NEED THEM! THE ROBOT MASTERS ARE DOING GREAT ON THEIR OWN!
THEN MAYBE...
...YOU SHOULD STOP DR. WILY WHILE THEY'RE BUSY?
OH! RIGHT! HIM!
STAY BACK WHERE IT'S SAFE, ROLL! IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL NEED THESE POWERS AFTER ALL.
LEAD THE WAY! I'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

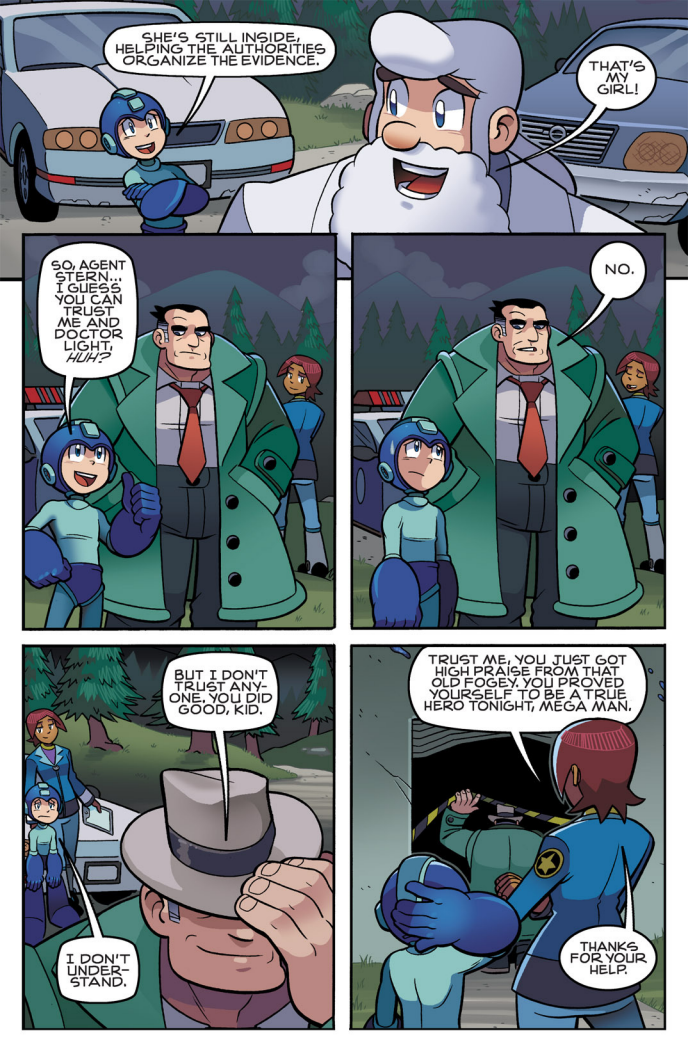
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, DOCTOR WILY!
SURRENDER!

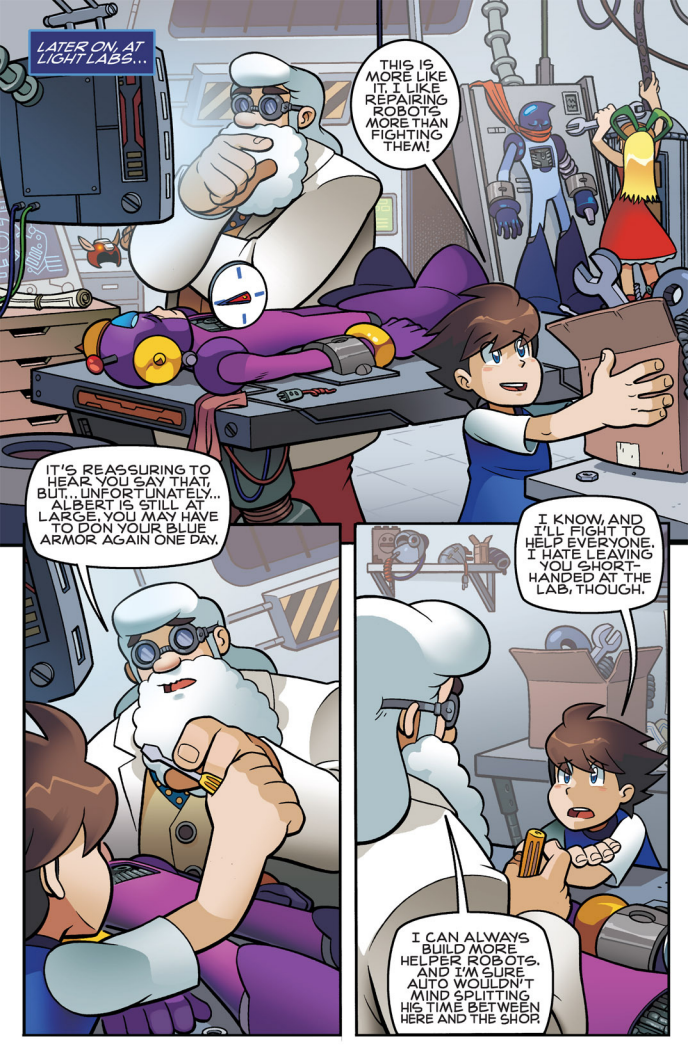
I MUST SAY, I'M IMPRESSED BY THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ROBOT MASTERS.
EVEN WITH THOMAS' MEDDLING, THEY'RE REMARKABLE.
SOME OF YOU ARE *ESPECIALLY* REMARKABLE.
THAT'S NICE, BUT YOU'RE STILL UNDER ARREST!
IT'S NO USE, MEGA MAN...
...IT'S A DECOY.
DON'T LOOK SO GLUM, AGENT. YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE FIGURED IT OUT. I *AM* A GENIUS, AFTER ALL.

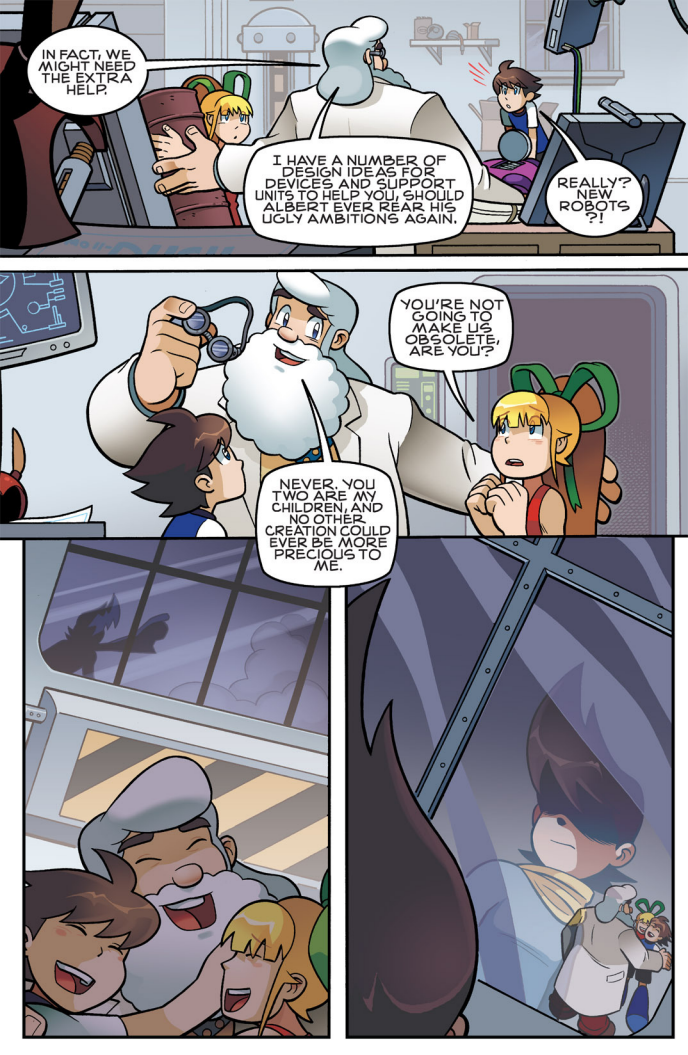
HAHAHA! YOU GOT THEM GOOD, BOSS! THAT SAUCER IS JUST A HOLOGRAM PROJECTOR WITH A TURRET! THERE AIN'T EVEN AN ENGINE IN IT!
I...I NEVER EVEN SAW HIM MAKE THE SWITCH...
WHAHAHA!
I WAS LONG GONE BEFORE YOU EVEN GOT HERE! THE RE-CAPTURED ROBOT MASTERS WOULD'VE BEEN SUMMONED TO ME ONCE YOU WERE DESTROYED.
I MAY HAVE LOST MY ROBOTS, BUT AT LEAST I GET TO SEE YOU ALL FRUSTRATED BY MY GENIUS.
HAHAHA!
HA HAH-- RZK!
WHOA! HOLD IT! WE NEED THAT AS EVIDENCE TO CLEAR DR. LIGHT!
...RIGHT. I'M SORRY.

BAH! LET WILY RUN AWAY LIKE THE COWARD HE IS! WE WON THE FIGHT!
YEAH, THANKS FOR ALL THE HELP BACK THERE.
YOU GUYS HAD IT UNDER CONTROL! YOU LOOKED REALLY COOL!
WELL, OF COURSE I DID!
WHATEVER. I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE SAFE, ROLL.
UM...THANKS, ICE MAN. IT WAS NICE OF ALL OF YOU TO COME RESCUE ME.
HEY GIL. YEAH, IT'S OVER. THE HOSTAGE IS SAFE, BUT WE MISSED THE BIG FISH. BRING A BIG CLEAN-UP CREW WITH YOU AND SOME INHIBITOR COLLARS.
HEAR THAT? SHE'S THANKING ALL OF US.
I HEARD HER! DON'T RUB IT IN!
?

SOON...
DON'T WORRY, GUYS. ONCE THE FEDERAL AGENTS ARE DONE IN THEIR INVESTIGATION, DR. LIGHT WILL BE ABLE TO REPROGRAM YOU TO BE GOOD.
ACTUALLY, THIS VAN IS HEADED STRAIGHT FOR LIGHT LABS.
THE DOC'S BEEN CLEARED, SIDES. I DOUBT OUR TECH BOYS COULD DO MUCH WITH THESE TWO, ANYWAY.
REALLY? SO DR. LIGHT IS FREE TO COME HOME?
SURE.
ROCK!
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU AND YOUR SISTER! WHERE IS ROLL?
THAT'S KINDA SWEET. CREEPY, BUT KINDA SWEET.
BE NICE, GIL.


SHE'S STILL INSIDE, HELPING THE AUTHORITIES ORGANIZE THE EVIDENCE.
THAT'S MY GIRL!
SO, AGENT STERN... I GUESS YOU CAN TRUST ME AND DOCTOR LIGHT, HUH?
NO.
BUT I DON'T TRUST ANY-ONE. YOU DID GOOD, KID.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
TRUST ME, YOU JUST GOT HIGH PRAISE FROM THAT OLD FOGEY. YOU PROVED YOURSELF TO BE A TRUE HERO TONIGHT, MEGA MAN.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.


LATER ON, AT LIGHT LABS...
THIS IS MORE LIKE IT. I LIKE REPAIRING ROBOTS MORE THAN FIGHTING THEM!
IT'S REASSURING TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, BUT... UNFORTUNATELY... ALBERT IS STILL AT LARGE. YOU MAY HAVE TO DON YOUR BLUE ARMOR AGAIN ONE DAY.
I KNOW, AND I'LL FIGHT TO HELP EVERYONE. I HATE LEAVING YOU SHORT-HANDED AT THE LAB, THOUGH.
I CAN ALWAYS BUILD MORE HELPER ROBOTS. AND I'M SURE AUTO WOULDN'T MIND SPLITTING HIS TIME BETWEEN HERE AND THE SHOP.


IN FACT, WE MIGHT NEED THE EXTRA HELP.
I HAVE A NUMBER OF DESIGN IDEAS FOR DEVICES AND SUPPORT UNITS TO HELP YOU, SHOULD ALBERT EVER REAR HIS UGLY AMBITIONS AGAIN.
REALLY? NEW ROBOTS?!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE US OBSOLETE, ARE YOU?
NEVER. YOU TWO ARE MY CHILDREN, AND NO OTHER CREATION COULD EVER BE MORE PRECIOUS TO ME.

MEANWHILE...
GRR...WELL-PLAYED, THOMAS. YOU'VE YET AGAIN ROBBED ME OF MY GLORY.
I SHOULD'VE BEEN TOP OF OUR CLASS. I SHOULD'VE BEEN ON THAT STAGE, UNVEILING MY ROBOT MASTERS. I SHOULD HAVE THE WORLD IN THE PALM OF MY HAND...
LAB 07
...AND I SHOULD BE RULING IT FROM THIS CASTLE, NOT USING IT AS A HIDEOUT!

"KEEP YOUR ROBOT MASTERS. THEY WERE FLAWED BY YOUR INPUT, ANYWAY. I WILL BUILD BETTER ONES!
"THE POWERS YOU INVENTED I WILL PERFECT!
"I WILL PUSH THE LIMITATIONS OF ROBOTS BEYOND WHAT YOU COULD EVER DREAM!
"AND I'LL BE SURE TO ACCOUNT FOR YOUR PRECIOUS MEGA MAN THIS TIME!"
IT'S TIME TO SEE WHO THE REAL GENIUS IS, THOMAS...

...AND PUT OUR ROBOT MASTERS TO THE TEST!
THE NEXT GENERATION OF SINISTER ROBOTS IS ON THE WAY!
DR. WILY RETURNS
NEXT MONTH:
Part ONE

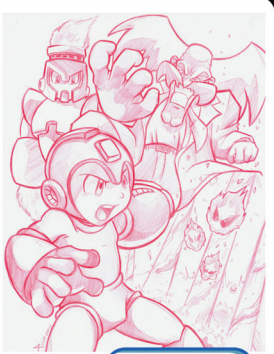
MEGA-MAIL PRESENTS

MASTER WORKS

YOUR MEGA MAN FAN ART

"MegaGoemon" sent to megaman@archiecomics.com

Joseph S. from New Jersey



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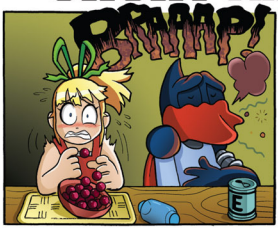

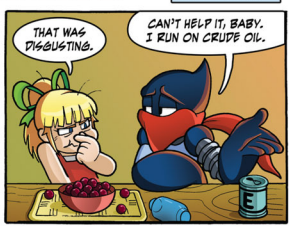

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